## STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

- 1. (original) A method of treating a condition associated with dysregulation of the process of cell death in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a benzodiazepine compound.
- 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine does not bind to a central benzodiazepine receptor and binds only with low affinity to a peripheral benzodiazepine receptor.
- 3. (original) The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the benzodiazepine induces apoptosis in a low serum assay.
- 4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is not a chronic inflammatory condition.
- 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine is a compound having the structure:

$$R_1$$
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 

or its enantiomer,

wherein,

 $R_1$  is aliphatic or aryl;

R<sub>2</sub> is aliphatic, aryl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC(=O)-R<sub>5</sub> or a moiety that participates in hydrogen bond formation,

wherein  $R_5$  is aryl, heterocyclic,  $-R_6$ -NH-C(=O)- $R_7$  or  $-R_6$ -C(=O)-NH- $R_7$ , wherein  $R_6$  is an aliphatic linker of 1-6 carbons and  $R_7$  is aliphatic, aryl, or heterocyclic; and

each of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is independently hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, amino, lower-alkyl-substituted-amino, acetylamino, hydroxyamino, an aliphatic group having 1-8 carbons and 1-20 hydrogens, aryl, or heterocyclic;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or derivative thereof.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine is a compound having the structure:

or its enantiomer,

wherein,

 $R_1$  is aliphatic or aryl;

 $R_2$  is aliphatic, aryl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC(=0)- $R_5$  or a moiety that participates in hydrogen bond formation,

wherein  $R_5$  is aryl, heterocyclic,  $-R_6$ -NH-C(=O)- $R_7$  or  $-R_6$ -C(=O)-NH- $R_7$ , wherein  $R_6$  is an aliphatic linker of 1-6 carbons and  $R_7$  is aliphatic, aryl, or heterocyclic; and

each of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is independently hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, amino, lower-alkyl-substituted-amino, acetylamino, hydroxyamino, an aliphatic group having 1-8 carbons and 1-20 hydrogens, aryl, or heterocyclic;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or derivative thereof.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine is a compound having the structure:

or its enantiomer,

wherein,

 $R_1$  is aliphatic or aryl;

 $R_2$  is aliphatic, aryl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC(=O)- $R_5$  or a moiety that participates in hydrogen bond formation,

wherein  $R_5$  is aryl, heterocyclic,  $-R_6$ -NH-C(=O)- $R_7$  or  $-R_6$ -C(=O)-NH- $R_7$ , wherein  $R_6$  is an aliphatic linker of 1-6 carbons and  $R_7$  is aliphatic, aryl, or heterocyclic; and

each of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is independently hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, amino, lower-alkyl-substituted-amino, acetylamino, hydroxyamino, an aliphatic group having 1-8 carbons and 1-20 hydrogens, aryl, or heterocyclic;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or derivative thereof.

- 8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell death is apoptotic.
- 9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell death is necrotic.
- 10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dysregulation of the process of cells death is caused by disruption of the FAS pathway.
- 11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is an autoimmune disease.

- 12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the autoimmune disease is a disease selected from the group consisting of systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjögren's syndrome, graft-versus-host disease and myasthenia gravis.
- 13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is a chronic inflammatory condition.
- 14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the chronic inflammatory condition is psoriasis, asthma, or Crohn's disease.
- 15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is a hyper-proliferative disorder.
- 16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the hyper-proliferative disorder is a neoplastic condition.
- 17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the hyper-proliferative disorder is selected from the group consisting of B-cell lymphoma, T-cell lymphoma, cancer, chemoresistant cancers, disorders related to deficient p53 expression, and disorders related to overexpression of endogenous bcl-x<sub>L</sub>
- 18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is induced by a viral infection.
- 19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the viral infection is caused by a virus selected from the group consisting of herpes virus, papilloma virus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- 20. (original) The method of claim1, wherein the condition is atherosclerosis or osteoarthritis.

- 21. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising co-administering one or more additional agents to the subject.
- 22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the additional agent is a chemotherapeutic agent or radiation.
- 23. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered orally, parenterally, topically or intranasally.
- 24-129. (canceled).
- 130. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said benzodiazepine compound is

131. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said condition is psoriasis.